7th, 8th and 9th Five Year Plans, container handling facilities, facilities for handling crude, facilities for handling POL products, coal handling facilities, Ro-Ro berths etc. The report also deals with investment planning, environmental aspects and a land use plan.

Privatisation Programme of Cochin Port Trust

3235. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cochin Porst Trust have drawn up a privatisation programme to give a major thrust to modernisation of its container transhipment terminal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes Sir. The Cochin Port Trust have proposed to go in for inviting private participation in the setting up, operation and management of Container Transhipment Terminal proposed to be set up at Vallarpadam.

(b) Advertisements have already been inserted by Cochin Port Trust in the leading newspapers inviting offers from persons/firms interested in making an investment in the above proposal.

Permission to general pass holders to Travel in Green line services

3236. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received requests to allow holders of General All route pass to travel in Green Line Services during peak hours;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to accept the above request; and

(d) if so, the manner thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) DTC have received some representations/suggestions in general regarding extension of the facility of general All route passes in Green Line Services.

(c) and (d) Green Line Services have been introduced with the objective of providing faster and comfortable travel facilities to those commuters who can pay a little more than the ordinary fares. Hence, a flat fare of Rs. 4/- per head per trip is charged in these services. There is no proposal before the Government to allow All route pass holders in Green Line Services.

Development of Highway sector

3237. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Development of highway sector has lagged behind due to constraints on financial resources;

(b) if so, whether a seminar was held recently at New Delhi in which private sector participation in highway projects was discussed;

(c) if so, the details of the points discussed in the seminar;

(d) whether the Government propose to hand over the task of development of National Highways to private sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Seminar was organised in order to seek the views of the private sector as well as financial institutions on various aspects concerning their involvement in such National Highway projects.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is contemplating to involve pri-